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AIRMAIL

Maj. Bert Bank
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30 Aug 45

Dear Bert:

Well, as usual, no mail again this week. I bet I'll have a bunch when it does catch up with me. I sure do miss the news from home. Daddy writes me everything that happens there, just like a paper, and Lottie just shoots a little bull, and that is all.

Yesterday was my day off, so I just loafed around all day. I fixed up a few things around my tent, bummed a socket and bulb from the Red Cross man, took a nap, and took George swimming in the afternoon. There are a few other monkeys around the area, and nearly every afternoon I take him out to play with them.

It is hot as the devil today, and nothing to do in the office here. I have been reading Ernie Pyle's Brave Men all morning, and it is wonderful. You ought to read it at the first opportunity. He was really a great writer. I bet you never heard of him until you got home, did you?

Boy, you have never seen such blackmarket as you do up here where I am. I am right next door to the Provost Marshal, who is Major E. B. Peobles, who married Lee Baldwin, and a darn nice fellow, and they bring in soldiers and Filipinos all day long with stuff. They caught one Filipino with a boat load of GI clothes and equipment he had bought from GI's. One Filipino had a cafe and had 3 new refrigerators he had bought from the Quartermaster. You ought to see the confiscated equipment they have over in the MP building. Reinfeld is working over there now assorting out the stuff, and he showed it to me today at dinner hour. It is really supprising. Boy, are they going to stick it to those soldiers. I sure would hate to be in their shoes. And are they strict on the off limits areas here! It costs a soldier $10.00 every time they caught in an off limits place, and a courts-martial after a few times. Practically all of the little villages and towns are off limits around here.

There are not many ships coming in to this bay now. I guess they are all bypassing us to go farther North these days. We are getting a beer and cigarette issue on the first of the month. We get a case of beer for 4 pesos, and we don't get smokes issued free anymore. We get 2 cartons for 2 pesos every 2 weeks. I don t mind paying if we can only buy them when we need them. It has been awfully hard to get pipe tobacco lately, and I have had to go out and bum some.

What is Dooley Deal doing now? Is he going to be discharged after his leave? Do you know any boys from home that have returned from ETO? It won t be long before a lot from overhere will be returning. We are just waiting for

MacArthur to give the word so they can have a recount of the points, and the critical score will be lowered to 80. I will have 86 points as of September 12th, the contemplated date of the big recoounting. That is all we old men talk about nowadays, points, points, points, and occupation of Japan.

Out in the bay all day long I can see Filipinosin their little boats fishing. I sure would like to go out with one some day and go fishing. It sure does look good out there. Overhere a lot of fishing is done with TNT and hand grenades. When we were on an outpost on Raoh Island off of Morotai for a month, we would go out in the native boats everyday and with a couple of cha ges of TNT we would get enough fish, and some 200 pounders too, to feed the whole detachment of 200 men. The natives would dive down to get the fish that didn't come to the top. They wear little diving glasses. I sent Daddy a pair of them from Morotai. Boy, we sure did eat fish in those days. I love it. How did you like the nice ebony walking sticks I sent Daddy. The native boy that worked forme and stayed with me made them for me. He sure is handy with a piso (Malayan for small knife). I am going to try and get him in the States after the war. He is a nice looking kid.

A couple of boats just came in, and everthing around here is all astire. We have to send a teletype massage, get the laborers and working crews out to unload it, fill out some forms, and whatnot.

That is about all for now, so be good and write soon.

Chuck